

Mac's National Security Accomplishments

Six months before 9/11, on March 21, 2001, Mac Thornberry introduced a bill to establish a National Homeland Security Agency to better protect our country from terrorist attacks. Drawing on the recommendations of the Hart-Rudman Commission, Mac's bill served as the foundation for the legislation that established the Department of Homeland Security.

In the words of Congressional Quarterly, his efforts "gave Thornberry an aura of prescience as soon as the World Trade Center's twin towers were felled and the Pentagon was torn open by hijacked airliners."

Mac has consistently been on the leading edge of critical national security issues, from homeland security and nonproliferation to transformation of the military, nuclear deterrence, and cybersecurity.

Defense News called Thornberry "a smart hawk who's not afraid to buck the party line." Congressional Quarterly identified him in 2002 as one of 28 key lawmakers shaping the agenda of the "War Congress." National Journal identified him as a "Republican to Watch," calling him an E.F. Hutton of Congress (because when he talks about defense and homeland security issues, people - and his colleagues on Capitol Hill - listen.)

Thornberry has written extensively on defense matters and has been published in the national press as well as academic military journals including the Washington Times, Armed Forces Journal and Naval Institute Proceedings. He has also appeared on CNN, Fox News, and C-SPAN to provide Congressional insight on homeland and national security issues.

Mac has served on the Armed Services Committee for more than ten years. He is a senior member of the Strategic Forces and Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities Subcommittees. From 1999 through 2002, he served as chairman of a special Armed Services Committee panel that conducted oversight of the reorganization of the nation's nuclear weapons complex. In 1999, he was the leading advocate in the House for organizational reform that led to the creation of the National Nuclear Security Administration, a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy, charged with ensuring the nuclear weapons complex is properly managed and that the nuclear weapons stockpile remains viable and part of the strategic deterrent against future adversaries.

Appointed in late 2004 to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), Thornberry assumed additional leadership responsibilities in the 109th Congress as Chairman of the newly created Subcommittee on Oversight. He will focus primarily on implementation of the reforms contained in the "Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004," also known as the "9/11 Bill." HPSCI Chairman Pete Hoekstra said, "This subcommittee has an enormous task ahead of it, and the energy and professionalism he will bring to this effort will greatly benefit the nation's intelligence capabilities."

During the 108th Congress, Mac was appointed to the Select Committee on Homeland Security and served as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science, and Research & Development. His main efforts focused on improving cybersecurity awareness for the nation and ensuring the U.S. remains a leader in Homeland Security science and technology.

Among his other activities are co-chair of the Defense Study Group and the Proliferation Prevention Forum. As the founder and of the Defense Study Group, a bipartisan organization of House Members who meet on a regular basis to discuss issues related to America's national and homeland security, he brings together experts from the defense, academic, and think tank communities for candid discussions with members of Congress. He co-chairs the bi-partisan Proliferation Prevention Forum which was established by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) to help provide members of Congress and their staffs with the best information available on non-proliferation issues. He is a member of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, Transformation Advisory Group which provides the military with advice on defense and transformation policies and future issues.

His efforts to strengthen our national defense have also been recognized by military organizations across the country, including the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Retired Officers Association, and the National Association of Uniformed Services. In the summer of 2000, Thornberry was awarded the Vanguard Award from the Non-Commissioned Officers Association in recognition of his efforts on behalf of those who serve - or have served - in our Nation's Armed Forces.